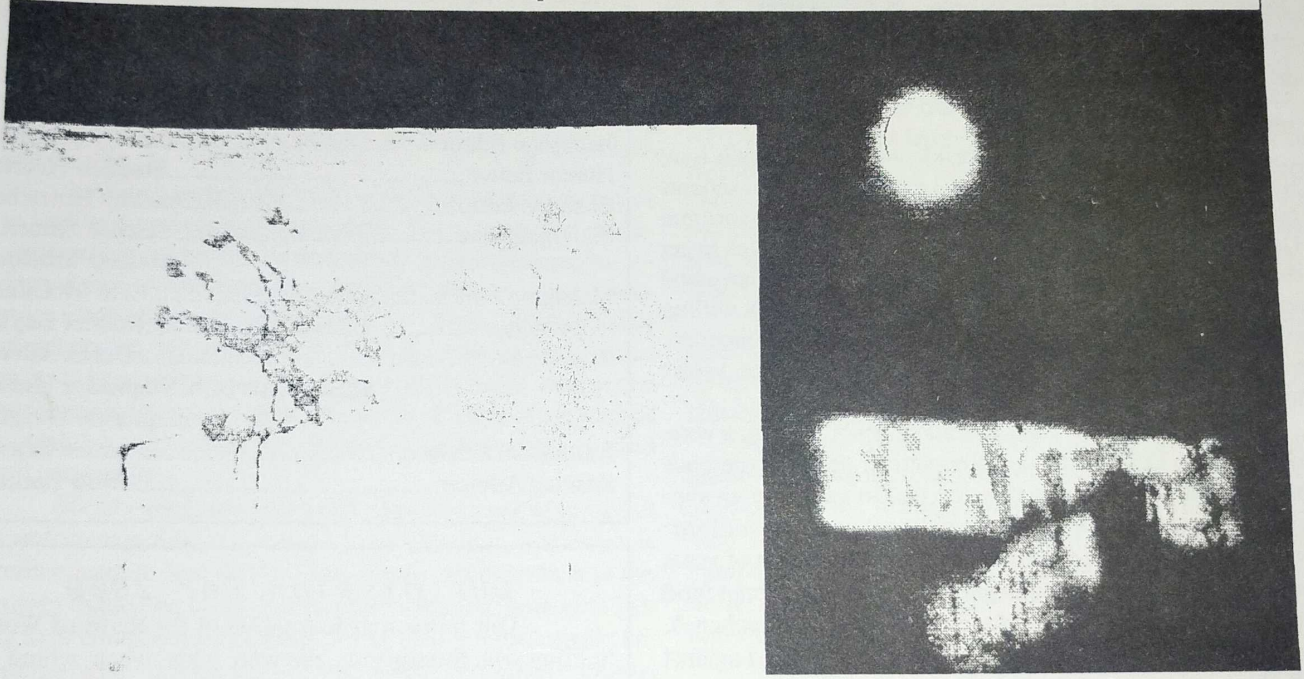
Red Bird Word

Volume 34 October 2000 Number 2



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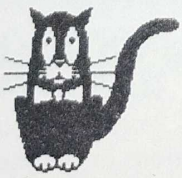

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ALTON HIGH SCHOOL 2200 COLLEGE AVE. ALTON, IL 62002

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IT'S ALL ABOUT ME

Three's a Crowd
in Presidential Election

By Kelly Lappin
Editor-in-Chief

The presidential election isn't until November 7, but we already know who won't win. Third party candidates like Ralph Nader and Pat Buchanan can only hope to gain support for their parties, knowing that our country's two-party political system hasn't been broken for about 150 years.

Media coverage of the presidential race makes it look like there are only two candidates. Limitless financial support can't compete with all the free publicity given to Al Gore and George W. Bush. It is much harder for other candidates to get the attention of many voters long enough to explain their stand on important issues, and many people are simply not willing to vote for a third party candidate. But with the Democratic and Republican parties growing more and more alike, voters may want to consider their other options.

Voting for a third party candidate is not wasting a vote. After all, the Democratic and Republican parties were once third parties, which means they too had to gain enough support to become the two dominant political parties. Third parties have also effected election results by the amount of votes they take away from the major party candidates. Without thrid parties, Abraham Lincoln would not have beaten Stephen A. Douglas, and George Bush may have been re-elected against Bill Clinton if it weren't for independent candidate Ross Perot.

Although it is unlikely a third party candidate will win this election, the more votes any third party obtains can greatly affect the loss or gain of support in future elections. For instance, Green Party candidate Ralph Nader had an estimated six percent of votes before his campaign began, and if he gets another five percent come election day, his party will have more funding next time.

It is hard to say what could eventually break America's two-party system. If global warming or the ozone layer become an increasing endangerment to the population, maybe the majority of votes will swing towards the envionmentally-conscious Green Party. Or the cost of living could soar and everyone will support the Libertarian Party because they want to eliminate taxes. Sadly, it may take such a drastic change to give a third party candidate a real chance of winning the presidency.

RedBird Word
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Our Mission For 2000

Our mission as journalists of the RedBird Word is to bring you, the students, the who, what, when, where, and why of the news. Aside from the facts we will strive to enlighten and entertain. This is a paper for the students, created by the students, so as your voice, help us be heard.

Letters to the Editor
What Do You Think?

The RedBird Word staff wants to hear from you. If you have any questions or comments about a story, let us know! Feel free to drop your letter by Room 401, put it in Mrs. Brave's mailbox in the Main Office, or send an e-mail to the Editor-in-Chief at klappin@journalist.com. Also, clubs and organizations who would like to advertise events or awards can have a club sponsor or member contact us. We'll run an ad for your activity for FREE, just let us know!

cover photos by Katie Manning

BEDBIRD BANT
RBW OPINIONS OCTOBER 2000

BEAUTY MAGAZINES CAUSE LOW SELF-ESTEEM

By Audrey Hinrichs
Business Editor

Your body is the best instrument you will ever own. I stumbled upon this message recently in a handout I received in Mr. Kline's Popular Literature class. This particular message, contained in the infamous Sunscreen song, encouraged me to rearrange my thoughts concerning my individual self-worth and my body. In order to do that I had to look at the issue of self-esteem.

Low self-esteem results from the way society teaches us to look at ourselves and our bodies. Teenage fashion magazines exploit youth culture and trends, while encouraging independence. At the same time, however, these magazines promote ideals of beauty and appearance. Some of these ideals are attainable, but most aren't. Teenage girls are bombarded with fashion magazines that feature abnormally skinny and uncommonly beautiful girls.The focus of these magazines is on makeup and fashion tips, instead of improvement of mind and personality.

Society needs to correct their distorted view of beauty. It is unfortunate that in our society, beginning in adolescence, women learn to hate their bodies. Nearly every woman in our society thinks she is fat. It is not uncommon to hear girls listing their complaints about their about their bodies, usually beginning with "I hate my...." I've heard completely normal women complain about large thighs, ugly noses, large breasts, small breasts and the size of their posterior regions.

Beauty magazines also convey the message that having a boyfriend is crucial and that one must be perfect in order to find one. These magazines feature articles such as "How to get him to notice you" and "How to flirt better," and throw in dieting articles.

Men don't hate their bodies so why should we? Most guys I've spoken to are perfectly comfortable with the way they look. Even really undesirable guys feel that some girls must find them terribly hot.

I have vowed to compete against society and change the way I view myself. I think that now I won't look at my body as means to receive male attention, but as the only instrument I will have for the rest of my life. Girls, take my advice and get rid of your magazines and work on character and confidence. And please, do me a favor and never lower yourself to say, "You're too skinny, I hate you." Take pride in yourself, don't degrade yourself.

Closed Campus... Is It Our Fault?

By Derek Allen
Senior Editor

I'll be the first to admit that when the School Board decided to close the campus, I was extremely upset. I was like a lot of AHS students, closed minded to the idea that closed campus might work. After one month, I was proven wrong.

Many theories have been thrown around as to why the School Board decided to close the campus. Was it for our safety? For the money? Was it because former Superintendent Beaber and current Superintendent Baiter didn't want to punish their sons who graduated last year? To answer those questions in order: yes , yes, and no.

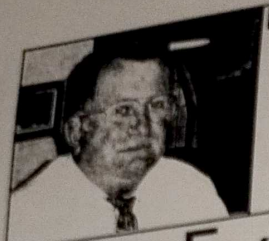
Alton High and the surrounding areas have become much nicer since the campus was closed. Violence is down and attendance is up. Property damage is down and the litter problem that existed Uptown has been eradicated.

Contrary to popular belief, the outrageous amount of money that we are charged for lunch does not go into the School Board's pockets. It goes to Chartwells Food Service. However, the School District does not cash in on the campus being closed. The School District does get $4250 dollars in state funds every year for every student that is enrolled and in class.

The idea that former Superintendent Beaber and current Superintendent Baiter waited until their sons graduated to close the campus is not true. The Superintendent doesn't make those decisions, the School Board does. Why did the School Board decide to close the campus? Here are some reasons to quench your thirst for knowledge about this subject. When 85 percent attendance is considered an excellent day, something has to be done.

Do I wish the campus was still open? Yes, because my study hall is so boring that it's mind numbing. I may not like the decision, but I understand it now. Closing the campus may not be the most popular decision that the School Board has ever made, but it was one of the smartest. So, the next time that you or someone you know is choking down a hard bread stick or gagging on cold nacho cheese, remember these words: We shouldn't blame the School Board for closing the campus, we should blame ourselves.

October 2000



RBW

NEWS

AHS-USA-World

Not Everyone Needs an ID

By David Fitzgerald
News Editor

The first thing that teachers check in every class is whether or not every student is wearing an ID. Students are told that they need to wear IDs for their own protection, but there are many people who work at AHS everyday who are not required to wear an ID.

"Only people employed by the (school) district are required to wear an ID," said Principal Philip Robbins. This leaves out student teachers and most cafeteria personnel.

"Student teachers are given 'fake IDs'," Principal Robbins said. These fake IDs are just a piece of paper with the student teacher's name and the title of student teacher on it.

photo by David Fitzgerald

Student Teacher Andrea Powers wearing her 'fake ID.'

Some cafeteria personnel are employed by Chartwell and not the school district. "Some of us are from Chartwell and some of us are from the district, but we all are supposed to wear IDs," said cafeteria manager Janet Sanders contradicting Principal Robbins. Chartwell issues IDs that only have a first name.

Whether or not cafeteria personnel are required to wear an ID, they don't. When two employees were asked where their IDs were, one said it was in her purse and the other said it was in the back room.

Halloween Parade

By Adam Betz

Around 140 units including floats, emergency vehicles, antique cars, trucks, and other groups such as bands and dancers will be showcased in the 84th annual Halloween Parade in Alton.

Awards for five different categories will be given this year. Categories include junior youth (13-years-old and under), senior youth (high school students), family/community, clubs/organizations and commercial floats. First through fourth places will be given for each category.

"We are getting good at this so we feel this should be a very successful year," said Don Huber, a member of the parade committee. "Al Womack, the parade marshal and retired Alton police officer, has planned a very good and interesting parade for us. There will even be a couple getting married during the parade," Huber said.

The parade began in 1916 and has been an annual city event except for 1942 through 1947 due to World War II.

Thespian Troupe 126 is one group at AHS that has already begun working on their float. "I think the Thespian float will be a great success this year. We have been working very hard and it should be a crowd pleaser for all," said junior Heather Baumberger and corresponding secretary of the troupe.

One group that will not be returning to the parade this year is the ROTC program at AHS. "We will be marching in the Veteran's Day Parade this year instead. It just seems to fit us better," said Lt. Col. Baker, senior ROTC instructor.

Pit Is No Longer In the Dumps

By Diane Holden

Alton High students probably hate to admit it, but they were right. "They" being the faculty members and administrators. Since closing the campus the trash problem in the pit has decreased dramatically. There is significantly less trash in the pit this year.

The trash problem was one of the strongest arguments that administrators used to close the campus. Besides making the students of AHS look immature and irresponsible, it made the campus look dirty. The trash also gave the community a negative impression of AHS, according to district administrators.

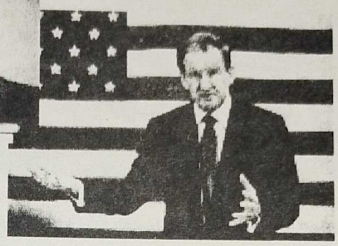
"The perimeters are looking real good," said Assistant Principal Jim Glaeser. The neighbors have complimented him on the way the campus looks. Neighbors feel that the closed campus helps the school's image.

Custodian Mark Edwards had one word to describe trash this year, "Reduced." Last year it would take 45 minutes to an hour to clean up the trash in the pit. This year it takes only 10-15 minutes.

The Candidates That America Forgot

By Kelly Lappin
Editor-in-chief
Photos courtesy of excite.com

Green Party presidential candidate Ralph Nader *(Left)* and Reform Party candidate Pat Buchanan *(Right)* are left in the dust by the large publicity clout of the two major party candidates, Al Gore and George W. Bush.



Nader and Buchanan were not invited to participate in the presidential debates, eliminating a good opportunity for both of them to present their central issues to such a large audience.

American Government teacher Robert Burress said third parties cannot get their message across "because the parties just aren't strong. Bush and Gore get free publicity, but the media doesn't follow third party candidates around."

The Green Party is known for its extreme support of environmental protection and opposition to the death penalty. Nader'e central issues include reforming campaign finance, ending pork-barrel spending and corporate welfare, improvements in public education and helping people left behind by the rich-get-richer economy.

Buchanan's platform features a major income tax reform plan for education money to give students a choice of schools.

Buchanan, like Nadarerupports environmental protection (but with more restrictions) and campaign finance reform, and saving social security and healthcare. Buchanan has larger plans to completely redesign Medicare.

Nader supports affirmative action, gay rights, abortion and gun control legislation. The Green Party is for demilitarization, but Buchanan wants to increase defense spending to reinforce American military superiority. Nader alse supports the decriminalization of "victimless" crimes, such as the possession of small amounts of marijuana, whereas Buchanan supports only the medical use of the drug.

Who's Who In the Election

By Erin McCann
Managing Editor
Photos courtesy of excite.com

The RedBird Word has provided a brief look at the views of the presidential candidates. For more information on these candidates visit www.issues2000.com.

Al Gore (Democrat) is for gun control, expanding the internet in classrooms and reducing class sizes, and increasing minimum wage. He hopes to eliminate the "No gays in the Military" policy, and he is pro-choice.

George W. Bush (Republican) is pro-life and hopes to strengthen the military and ensure safety in schools. He is against gun control, racial preferences and doctor assisted suicide.

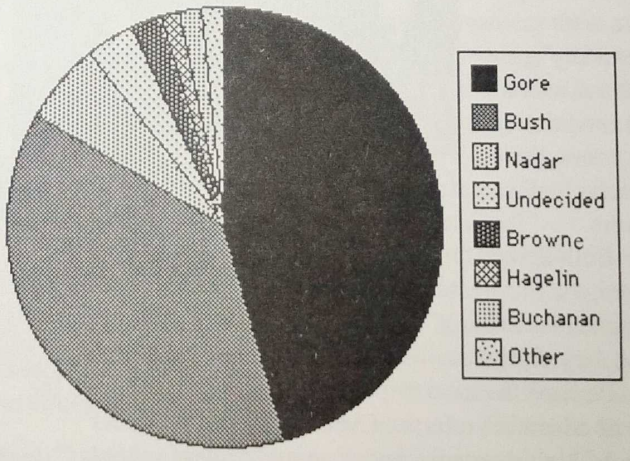
Ralph Nader(Green) wants strong enforcement on gun laws, and equal rights for gays and lesbians. He plans to take extra measures to stop global warming.

Harry Browne (Libertarian) does not feel that the government has any constitutional obligations with the issues of abortion and education. He is against gun control. No information could be gathered about his views on "gay and lesbian issues" because of the school board's fire wall on the inter net.

John Hagelin (Natural) is for gun control, and feels that the government should not provide funding for abortions. He is also, strongly apposed to nuclear power.

Pat Buchanan (Reform) is against gun control, and strongly opposes abortion and all gay and lesbian issues.

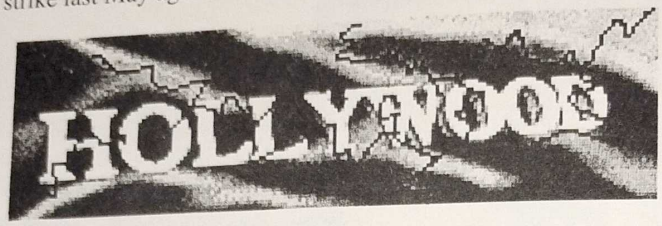
On October 13, 2000 the RedBird Word Staff conducted a poll to see who students at Alton High would choose for their United States President. The following are the results that poll.



Hollywood on Strike?

By Nancy McDonald

Actors and writers are threatening to strike Hollywood. The Screen Actors Guild (SAG) and The Writers Guild of America (WGA), together holding over 130,000 actors and writers, proposed a strike last May against advertisers over residuals, the money paid to commercial actors every time their ads air. SAG feels that advertisers are far too greedy, and actors and writers should be paid much more for the commercials.



Since last May there have been peaceful protests in New York and California. The real strike is supposed to happen next May. In the September 15 issue of "Entertainment Weekly," one movie studio chief stated, "The strike will definitely happen."

However, William Daniels, the SAG president, denied the strike rumors. Daniels said, "There's not talk of strike here. I don't know where that's coming from. But I believe that if there's enough talk about strikes, then, by God, there will be strikes." Recently, top Hollywood actors such as Harrison Ford and Academy Award winner Kevin Spacey have given $100,000 in donations to the strike fund.

A strike in Hollywood would mean the temporary end to new movies and television. Theatres would lose money, and it would be very difficult for Hollywood to rebuild its fan base after such a strike. One possible solution that some movie theatres have explored is showing older movies over again, especially those that are considered classics or favorites.

Lieberman and Cheney Face Off

By Scott Bechtold

Each hoping to gain the support of Americans for their particular party, as well as their issues, the vice-presidential candidates faced off in a debate October 5 in Danville, KY.

Republican Dick Cheney, former defense secretary, was as well-mannered and versed on the issues as Democrat Joe Lieberman, Senator from Connecticut.

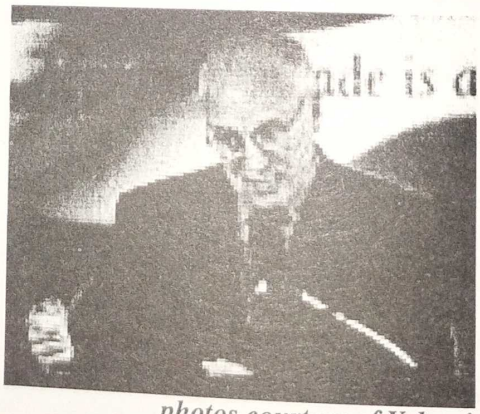
Lieberman (L) and Cheney (R)

The format used for the debate was a question and answer session with moderator Bernard Shaw. There were several key questions asked to each candidate, with a time limit given for their answers.

Both agreed on several issues, such as equal pay for women, the fair treatment of gays and lesbians, and the need to ban racial profiling. However, there were many issues on which they disagreed.

Perhaps the most important discussion concerned the issue of education reform. Cheney called for, "Local controls, high standards, and accountability of schools." Likewise, Lieberman stated, "We will allocate $170 billion to education." On education, Cheney emphasized greater control over schools, while Lieberman focused on putting more money into education.

Another key issue discussed was the balancing of the budget and the surplus. Lieberman's plan involved tax credits for the middle class, while Cheney countered with tax reform and tax cuts. Cheney conveyed his party's plan so, "individuals have control over their own lives."



photos courtesy of Yahoo!

The abortion pill, RU 486, was also brought up, and it was clear that Bush and Cheney oppose the decision by the FDA to legalize it. Bush and Cheney's views are pro-life, while the stand of Gore and Lieberman is pro-choice. Lieberman stated, "We should respect and protect a woman's right to choose."

Several other key issues discussed were Social Security, Medicare, and the military. In all, both sides agreed that the debate went well, and they are confident their discussion will aid the presidential candidates immensely.

Students Strut Their Spirit

By Jama Fabry
Features Editor

Hot pink hair, bushels of beads, go-go boots and bell bottoms--it may all sound a little insane, but it is simply the annual ritual of Spirit Week. From September 18-22 many AHS students chose to colorfully demonstrate their support for the school by participating in the events intended to psych everyone up for the Homecoming weekend.

The first of these days was "Twin Day," where students were asked to dress identical to one of their classmates. The second was "Fat Tuesday," in which everyone was to wear as many Mardi Gras necklaces as possible and share them with friends. Third was "Way-back Wednesday," where pupils undoubtedly raided their parents closets for apparel from past decades. The fourth day was "Crazy Hat and Hair Day," where everything from cowboy hats to green pigtails were seen. The final day was entitled "Spirit Day," and this invited everyone to bring out their red, white and grey, while some even painted their faces. For the last hour of school, a pep rally was held in the auditorium to start the excitement for that night's football game.

Reflecting on his first taste of Spirit Week, freshman Adam Knoche said, "Spirit Week was pretty cool. I liked getting to wear a hat all day, but I had to wear my soccer stuff on Friday. I had an awesome time at the game, though."

It seems as though losing our Homecoming football game has almost become a tradition, but at many of Alton's neighboring schools Homecoming *is* the tradition. At schools such as Civic Memorial, the week before their game consists of unique ideas, such as "Traitor Day," where the students wear clothes featuring rival schools, and all of the Queen candidates still sport the white hoop dresses.

Of course Homecoming is not complete without a King and Queen. As always the nominees rode through the streets of Alton in convertibles for the small parade before the game. They were introduced at the stadium.

On Saturday night the dance drew quite a crowd. Students and even faculty swayed to the music of this theme, "RedBird Mardi Gras." The excitement grew as coronation slowly approached. Though all the nominees were worthy competitors, two shined above the rest. Matt Izard and Julie Pisarek were crowned this year's King and Queen.

photo courtesy of Tatler

"I was so happy just to be nominated. I had a lot of fun getting prepared for Homecoming this week, but I was really shocked to actually win. I want to thank everyone, it was such an honor," said senior Julie Pisarek.

Dancing to the "Big Apple"

By Kari Oglesby

Move over Broadway! A talented group from Studio C.A.C.Dance in Hazelwood, MO will be dancing their way to New York City. Junior Kari Oglesby, sophomore Kristina Bemis, and freshmen Katie Gineris and Emily Roberts are just four of the 18 members representing the select troupe "Travel PAC."

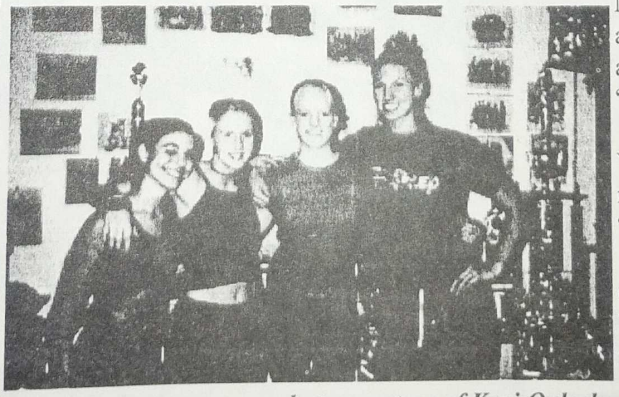


photo courtesy of Kari Oglesby

While staying at the Ameritana Hotel, which is located in the heart of the "Big Apple" between Times Square, 5th Avenue and Central Park, they will be taking numerous dance classes at the Broadway Dance Center and Steps. When not working in the studio, they will take a carriage ride through Central Park, a tour through the NBC Studios and trips to many theatres to see Broadway shows such as "RENT," "Swing," "Cabaret," "Contact," and "De La Guarda."

"I think this trip to New York will be a great experience for me," said freshman Emily Roberts, "I'm really excited!"

The "Travel PAC" will be departing for New York City on Thursday, November 16, and returning November19.

Freshman Katie Gineris, who has taken this trip in the past, said, "Last time was really fun. New York was a blast!"

Gothics, Gothics Everywhere

By Julie Strassman

Halloween is almost here and everyone is feeling a little more ghoulish than usual. But there are those who keep this eerie spirit alive year round. They are known around school as the 'Goths, and are commonly characterized by their unique dress, dark colors, and use of black makeup.

But really, what is Goth? Is it a style of dress, a religion, a lifestyle, or just a way to get attention? Melissa Miller, better known as 'Bugg', said, "People say it's for attention, but I do it for fun. I think it's hilarious when people give me funny looks."

Cale Young, who wears an inverted pentagram bracelet and has been known to spike his hair into a pair of horns, claims it has little to do with religion. "A lot of people say I'm a Satanist, but Goth isn't like that," he said, " I really don't think that religion ties into it."

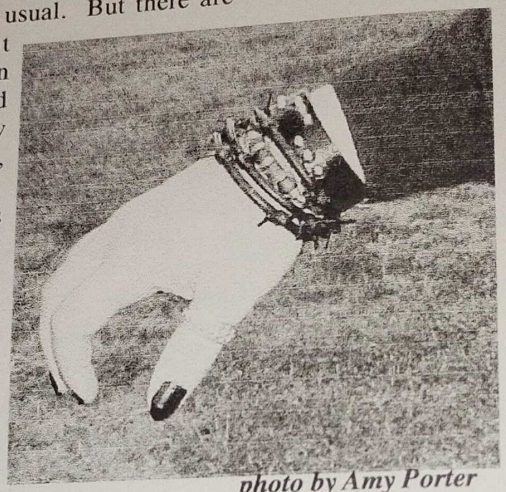


photo by Amy Porter

Elizabeth Velikis displays 'Gothic Garb.'

Brooke Sirois, who can be seen around school in vintage dresses, leather jackets, and the occasional pair of wings said, "Most Goths have no religion . The whole point of it is simple. When people look at me they basically say 'evil' and people need to know that there is evil in this world."

Goths make themselves walking reminders of the other half of life most choose to forget; except on Halloween.. So this year, throw on a leather jacket, find yourself some nylon gloves and a pair of tattered wings, break out the black lipstick and eye shadow, put on your best cryptic face, and go Goth for a night.

Cooking Your Meat Prevents Death

By Courtney Mathus
Back page editor

An estimated 73,000 cases of infection and 61 deaths occur in the United States each year due to the bacteria E. Coli. Although the presence of E. Coli and other kinds of bacteria are necessary to us to make vitamins, certain strains may produce powerful toxins and cause severe illness.

E. Coli is the abbreviated name of the bacterium Escherichia coli 0157:H7. This organism was found living in the intestines of healthy cattle. A majority of the time meat becomes contaminated when the bacteria are thoroughly ground into beef during slaughter.

Other known sources of infection have been linked to the consumption of unpasteurized milk and juice, lettuce, salami, sprouts and swimming in or drinking sewage contaminated water. Manager Maggie Stutz at Italia Bakehouse said, "Being a manager at a restaurant, I realize the responsibilities. I have been making sure our meat is edible, as well as, making sure our customers stay safe and happy with the food we serve."

photo by Stephanie Hoke

Computer teacher Mrs. Hawkins eats her sandwich.

So how can you prevent yourself from being infected from this harmful disease? After much research James C. Brown suggests the following: Always clean any surface that has come in contact with raw meat. Always cook meat until the juices run absolutely clear, and the inside of the meat reaches 160 degrees Fahrenheit. "I order my meat well done in restaurants, so hopefully that avoids the whole E. Coli problem," said senior Kelly Smith.

Be cautious if you like your meat rare; it is a great risk. Remember that any contaminated water or person can transfer these bacteria onto fruits, vegetables, and many kinds of food. Thoroughly wash all food and hands before eating.

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Cover S

Bottomless Blue

Legend (lej` end) n. An unverified popular story handed down from earlier times...

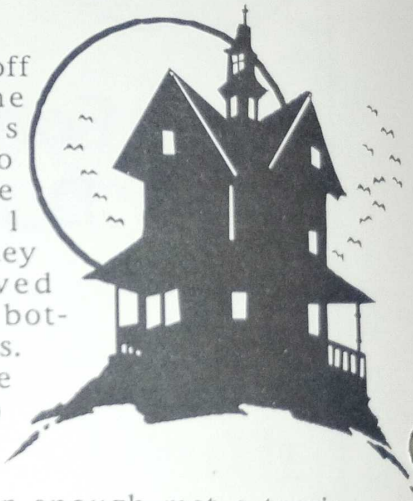
By Amy Porter
Cover Story Editor

What now seems to be a harmless pool was once a menace to society.

In the mid-60's, The Mississippi Lime Company mined out sections of the Bluffs, including what is now called Blue Pool.

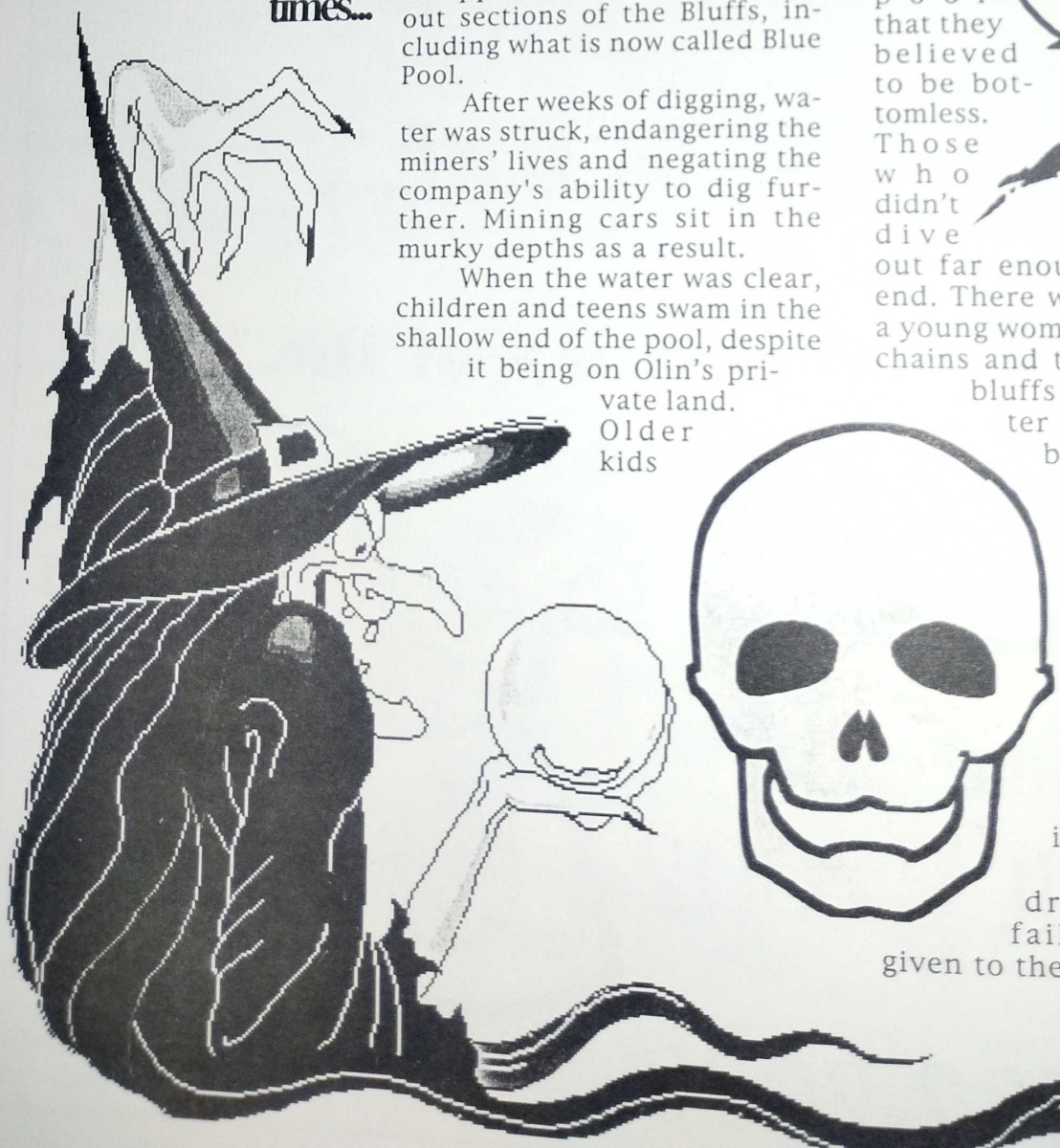
After weeks of digging, water was struck, endangering the miners' lives and negating the company's ability to dig further. Mining cars sit in the murky depths as a result.

When the water was clear, children and teens swam in the shallow end of the pool, despite it being on Olin's private land. Older kids dove off of the Bluffs into the pool that they believed to be bottomless. Those who didn't dive out far enough met a tragic end. There was an account of a young woman tied in logging chains and thrown off of the bluffs to her demise after a drug deal went bad.



The community demanded the pool be drained after two young boys found the woman's bloated body weeks after it had been thrown in.

Attempts to drain the pool failed, and it was given to the Nature Institute.



Legends October 2000

r story

Corrupted Comics

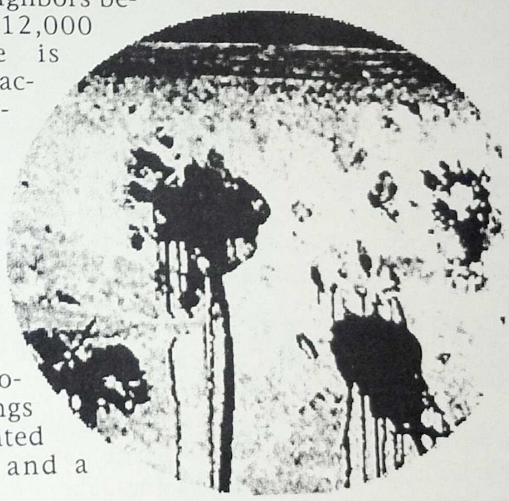
By Amy Porter
Cover Story Editor

Recent shipments of Japanese anime comic books have been tainted with necrotizing fasciitis, otherwise known as flesh-eating bacteria. The bacterium has been added to the ink of popular comics, so as the reader touches the pages, they are infected.

It is advised not to purchase comic books for the next few months in attempts to destroy all infected material continue.

If you have come in contact with a Japanese comic in the last four days and come down with a fever followed by a skin infection, you are advised to seek prompt medical attention. The skin infection from necrotizing fasciitis is very painful and eats two to three centimeters of flesh per day. Amputation is likely and death is possible. If you are more than an hour from a medical center, burning the flesh ahead of the infected area is advised to help slow the spread of the infection.

The FDA has been reluctant to issue a countrywide warning because of a fear of massive panic among teen males. They have secretly admitted that they feel upwards of 12,000 Americans will be affected by this but that these are "acceptable numbers." Please warn your friends and neighbors because 12,000 people is not an acceptable number!

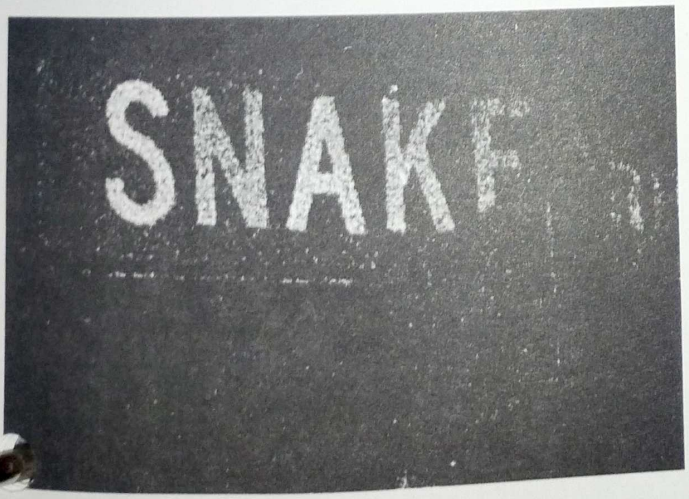


Hell's Road

By Katie Manning
Entertainment Editor

A carload of girls were cruising one cool summer evening. Being bored, they decided to go down Snake Road in Fosterburg, also known as Hell's Road.

They had heard stories before about meetings of a secret cult, a haunted house in the woods, and a haunted bridge.



photos by Katie Manning

Deciding to investigate for themselves, they followed the winding road. Each turn became more frightening than the next as the turns grew sharper.

When they reached the bridge, something caught their eye.

The girls stopped and got out of the car to get a better look. There, splattered on the walls of the bridge, were bloody handprints.

Wanting to get as far away from the road as possible, they returned to the car and found the engine was completely dead. As the girls got out of the car to look at the engine, headlights emerged from the woods.

A brown van screeched around the corner. The driver, a dark man wielding a gun, got out of the car and approached the girls.

Fearing their lives, the girls ran in different directions into the woods, and are still unaccounted for...

entertainment
music, movies and more!
September 2000
RBW

Emmis, Sinclair Take Over St. Louis Radio

By Catharine McNelly
Music Entertainment Editor

Say goodbye to your favorite radio disc jockeys, and while you're at it, you might even want to say adios to your favorite station.

Several St. Louis radio stations have undergone huge makeovers in the past month. Before the changes, two companies primarily owned St. Louis radio: Emmis Communications and Sinclair Broadcasting.

In July, Emmis settled a lawsuit to buy Sinclair's St. Louis stations. Frequencies such as WIL (92.3 FM), KIHT (96.3 FM), KXOK (97.1 FM), WVRV (101.1 FM) and KPNT (105.7 FM) were bought out by Emmis for $220 million. Shortly after, Emmis traded WIL, WVRV and WKKX (106.5 FM) with Booneville International, based in Salt Lake City and owned by a Mormom Church, for a Los Angeles Station.

Analysts suggest the hardest hit station is KPNT. While the format has only slightly changed from modern alternative rock to harder alternative rock, personalities have had to deal with huge changes. KPNT's morning personalities Jeff Burton, Trish Gazall and Thom West have been replaced with Howard Stern's syndicated morning show. Former KPNT DJ Tracy Wilde has returned to host the 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. slot. Eric Schmidt, formerly of WXTM (104.1 FM), and newcomer Jennifer White host between 2 p.m. and 10 p.m. while Donny Fandango moved from his afternoon slot to the 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. shift.

Les Aaron, formerly the lunch time host at KPNT, hosts the same shift at WXTM's The Mall, which has changed from Extreme radio to a new wave, totally 80s format. Billy Greenwood, formerly of WKKX, and Kane, former Extreme DJ, also host at WXTM.

KIHT and KXOK now play host to the Steve and DC morning show from 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. Madison, former WXTM personality, Mark Close, Michelle Kent and Johnnie King now host on KIHT.

On top of all these changes lies yet another change quite different from any other St. Louis station. KXOK is now a talk radio station marketed towards women. It is described as "a racier radio version of Oprah, airing consumer tips and relationship advice." St. Louis will finally be host to the Loveline radio show. Loveline, which airs on MTV with hosts Dr. Drew Pinsky and Adam Carolla, has aired as a radio show in larger cities such as Chicago, Los Angeles and New York as well as neadby college towns like Champaign, IL and Columbia, MO.

Fans Wave Goodbye to Extreme Radio

By Andy Herrin

Extreme Radio is not so extreme these days. For almost two years, Extreme Radio (104.1 FM) has been a very popular hard rock station in St. Louis. The music on Extreme varied from today's loudest band like Slipknot and the Deftones to older rock acts such as Metallica and Guns 'N Roses.

Despite Extreme's popularity, it went off the air in mid-September. What was once the hard rock Extreme Radio is now The Mall, 80s and Beyond.

"Extreme Radio was my favorite radio station," said senior Eric Durbin. "Now that it's gone, I don't listen to the radio anymore."

The Mall is a very different type of station compared to Extreme. It is composed of 80s pop hits featuring artists like Tiffany, Cindy Lauper, Duran Duran, EMF and early-Madonna.

photo by James Minchin
The Deftones were often played on WXTM

"I didn't know Extreme was gone," said freshman Brandon Marshall. "I just turned on 104.1 and they were playing an old Madonna song. I thought it was a joke."

With Extreme long gone, what will its fans turn to? Even though there is not another station with such an even mixture of old heavy metal with new rock, there are alternative choices for hard rock fans. KSHE (94.7 FM) still remains for fans of older rock. For fans of newer rock bands, there is WLCA (89.9 FM) and KPNT (105.7 FM). Neither KPNT nor WLCA are as heavy metal based as Extreme, but they come close at times.

After the success of Extreme, it is hard to believe a radio station such as the Mall has taken its place. It is a difficult adjustment to make, going from heavy, hard-hitting rock songs to 80s pop. Even though Extreme is gone and the Mall is here, there will always be a giant gap in the radio dial left by Extreme.

Concert Calendar

November 5
3 Doors Down w/ Cold, Dust for Life
The Pageant

November 6
Limp Bizkit, Eminem, Papa Roach
Savvis Center

November 7
New Found Glory, Fenix TX, Lefty
Firehouse

November 10
Cherry Poppin' Daddies
The Pageant

November 19
The Roots
The Pageant

November 19-20
N'Sync
Savvis Center

November 24
BB Mak
The Pageant

December 1
Moe.
The Pageant

Smashing Pumpkins' Final Farewell

By Scott Schwartz

Unlike any other band of their stature, The Smashing Pumpkins, 1996 Grammy winners for *Bullet With Butterfly Wings*, have released their final album cost free. *Machina II: Friends & Enemies of Modern Music* is being distributed by loyal fans via the Internet.

The group's seventh album was released on Sept. 5 under Konstantinople Records after their long-time record company, Virgin, refused to produce the follow up to *Machina/The Machines of God*.

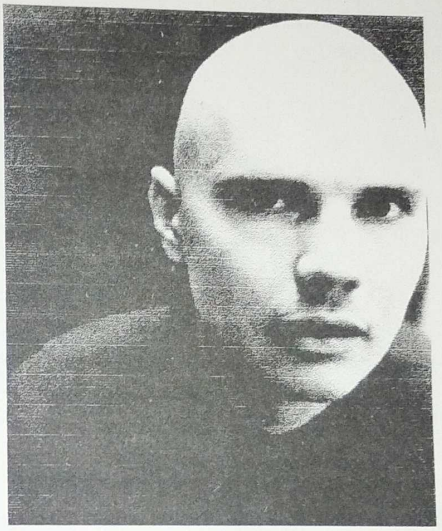


photo by Yelena Yemchuk
Billy Corgan, lead singer of Smashing Pumpkins

The album has 25 tracks, all previously unheard. Billy Corgan, lead singer and guitarist, distributed only 25 copies of the album to the public, all in vinyl format. They were given only to close friends of the band and various Chicago area radio stations. All songs are easy to download from Napster or Machina2.cjb.net, a site set up by fans to gain exposure for the album.

The album's release was shrouded in mystery as many fans worried that these songs were leaked and unofficial. A press release from the fan site SPFC.org later cleared up all the confusion: "A follow up to Machina and the last album from the band. As a final farewell... a limited pressing was made and given away to be bootlegged out among the fans. Just to clear up any confusion, this is the final album from the band. There are 25 copies. There will not be a CD pressing." For more information visit www.smashingpumpkins.com.

St. Louis Heading for Anger Management

By Robb Davis

This is not for those teenybopper fans of Britney Spears, N'Sync, or Backstreet Boys. This is for those hardcore rockers who like to head bang and mosh. Limp Bizkit, Eminem and Papa Roach will be making a stop on the Anger Management Tour at the Savvis Center on November 6.

This will be the first tour featuring Limp's tracks off their new album *Chocolate Starfish and the Hot Dog Flavored Water* such as "My Generation" and "Rollin." This is the follow-up album to the multi-platinum *Significant Other* that contained such cult hits as "Nookie" and "Break Stuff."

Eminem is promoting his recently released album *The Marshall Mathers LP*, putting this Detroit rapper within distance of his second multi-platinum album, which spawned three Total Request Live mainstays.

Papa Roach, whose debut album *Infest* sits at 17 on the Billboard Top 200, is riding the success of their first single "Last Resort" into this tour.

On later dates of the tour, rappers DMX and Xzibit will join the tour to fill their parts in new Limp Bizkit tracks "Lethal Made the Beat" and a track produced by Swizz Beatz featuring Limp's lead singer Fred Durst, DMX, Redman, and Method Man.

Touring With Scissors Makes the Cut

By Erin McCann
Managing Editor

On September 30, "Weird Al" Yankovic fans crammed into the Sangamon Auditorium in University of Illinois at Springfield, for the sold out "Touring With Scissors" concert. Although the tour was inspired by Yankovic's latest album, *Running With Scissors*, it featured many past favorites as well as some never before heard songs.

Yankovic kicked off his two-hour set by singing his familiar hit "Gump" from his album *Bad Hair Day*, followed by "Polka Power!" Yankovic sang, as well as played his accordion, on "Polka Power!" one of his many pop-set-to-polka medleys.

The center of the concert was marked by a medley of both old and new songs, including "Eat It," "Jurassic Park," "Pretty Fly for a Rabbi" and "Fast Food," a new song parodying Alanis Morissette's "Thank You."

In addition to 16 hit songs and a 13 song medley, Yankovic also impressed the audience with a different but recognizable costume for nearly every song he performed. Yankovic dressed like Kurt Cobain for "Smells Like Nirvana" and like a caveman for "Bedrock Anthem."

Garnishing the concert was an endless array of special effects. Everything from a giant video screen to staged combat filled the stage, as colored lights and soap bubbles moved through the audience. As the extra-gory version of "The Night Santa Went Crazy" was performed, multiple snow jets created a realistic snowstorm throughout the auditorium.

photo courtesy of www.weirdal.com
Steve Jay steps back as Al whips his hair into a frenzy.

Yankovic performed energetically, telling stories, running through the audience, shooting his keyboard player and dancing. During "Like a Surgeon," Yankovic wrapped one leg around his head, and performed standing up on his other leg.

Yankovic hit the road for "Touring With Scissors" in July of 1999, making stops in Springfield, Carbondale and at Six Flags in Eureka. The tour will wrap up at the end of the year.

Trail of Dead or Trail of Destruction

By Laura Smock
Photographer

Sprawling guitars and a rough bash it out beat pours from a Beatles look-alike band, And You Will Know Us by the Trail of Dead. Straight out of Austin, TX, this band's attitude is pure punk rock. Its members literally throw themselves into their music like every great rock'n'roll band in history. Though often compared to Sonic Youth, Trail of Dead throws out the middleground Sonic Youth started years ago.

Singer/guitarist Conrad Keely and drummer Jason Reece met in high school and experienced the early 90s pre-grunge scene together in Olympia, WA, until they moved to Austin, TX. Keely and Reece meshed with guitarist Kevin Allen and bass player Neil Busch in 1991

photo by Heather Tierce
Jason Conrad and Reece Keely practicing.

Besides their debut LP and *Madonna* album, Trail of Dead released the *Mistakes and Regrets* single (Domino) with a video by Traci Goudie, a remix of "Half of What" with new vocals and an extra track, "Electronic Bird Mating Ritual" on October 3. Trail of Dead will release "Spells Complication" (Peek-a-Boo) on November 6. The band performs regularly at the Knitting Factory in New York, but journeys across the Atlantic for a full European tour beginning October 23.

Movie Calendar

Coming to Theaters

November 3
Charlie's Angels

November 8
Wonder Boys

November 10
Little Nicky
Men of Honor
Red Planet
Malena

November 17
The 6th Day
Bounce
Rugrats in Paris: The Movie

November 22
How the Grinch Stole Christmas
Unbreakable

Now Available on Video

Centerstage
The Patriot
Frequency
Gossip

'Final Cut' Not So Sharp

By Katie Manning
Movie Entertainment Editor

Blood. Guts. Gore. These are the characteristics that make up the horror movies of today, and "Urban Legends: Final Cut" is no exception.

Amy, played by Jennifer Morrison, is a student filmaker whose thesis film is all about urban legends. She attends Alpine University where everyone wants to win the career-making Hitchcock Award. Someone notices that Amy's movie is good enough to be award winning and starts taking out her crew members one by one.

photo courtesy of Tristar
Jennifer Morrison, Joey Lawrence and Matthew Davis star in "Urban Legends: Final Cut."

This film also features cameos from Joey Lawrence and former Real World IV cast member Jacinda Barrett.

Like "Scream 2" and "Scream 3," this is a horror movie about the making of a horror movie. Its plot is unbelievably sloppy and relies only on shock value to keep viewers in their seats. Don't waste your money on this one. Stay home and rent a real thriller.

'The Exorcist' Never Before Seen

By Jessica Rost

On December 26, 1973, the world was introduced to a whole new kind of terror. That terror was the movie "The Exorcist," starring newcomers Linda Blair and Jason Miller. Twenty-seven years later a whole new generation has had the opportunity to see it.

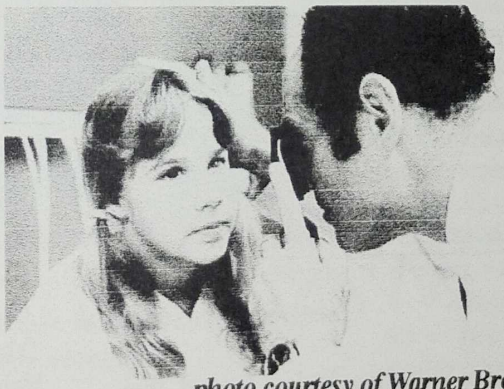
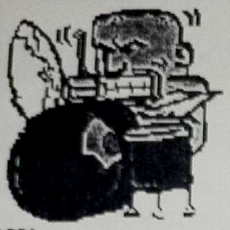


photo courtesy of Warner Brothers
Linda Blair is examined in the 1973 release

Warner Brothers re-released "The Exorcist" into movie theaters. It went into limited release on September 22 and was released nationwide on October 13. But this isn't just the same old thing.

Director William Friedkin and writer William Peter Blatty have redone the movie, adding 12 extra minutes of footage including the infamous "spider walk" scene. They also added new special sound effects, remixed the soundtrack and added new music to the score.

When the movie was first released in 1973, "The Exorcist" was a big hit both critically and at the box office, making $160 million. At the time, it was the second largest money-making film, the first being "The Godfather." It was nominated for 10 Oscars, including best film, and went home with two.



HUMOR

RBW

October 2000

This is all satire. Calm down.

BRUCE WILLIS: THE CONSPIRACY WITHIN

By Stephen Heintz
Humor Editor

There's a conspiracy in America. A conspiracy that goes so deep, that in order to find the information that you're about to read, 30 men had to die. Most died trying to cross the street or at the copying machine, but three or four died while investigating.

Ponder this: "Die Hard" one, "Die Hard" two, "Die Hard" three, "The Fifth Element," and "The Sixth Sense." What is the factor that serves as the common bond between these movies? American superstar Bruce Willis. What's missing? The number FOUR. There was no movie whose title contained the number four....or was there?

A few months ago, I noticed this anomale of numbers in the Bruce Willis empire. I gathered together the RedBird Word staff and insisted that we do some serious investigative reporting. Most of them...okay ALL of them laughed at me and knocked me down. After a short hospital stay, I was back out and ready to go. I hired an expert team of homeless guys, most of whom showed up at the meetings and stole my personalized stationery. Those who participated were out on the streets in a flash, searching for clues.

Days later, I realized that no one was coming back. Who knows what happened to them out there? I knew that I would have to take this one on by myself. First off, I wrote to my congressman, the first thing any good conspiracy theorist or angry mother should do. I then called the president on that one big red phone he has in his office, and spewed intimidating threats, demanding that he fess up. The Secret Service arrived at my house in mere minutes, and beat me for what seemed an excessive amount of time. I wasn't getting anywhere, and my threats to government officials weren't winning me any friends. I knew that I'd have to change tactics.

As soon as I got out of the hospital, I wheeled my way straight to the man himself: Bruce Willis. I knocked on his front door and waited for hours. I knew that he should be in at three in the morning, so he must have seen me outside and not wanted to fess up. It was only getting deeper. That was when I realized that someone must have told him I was coming, someone on the inside. I toiled for days trying to figure out who could have been covering up the movie, and who could have told Mr. Willis in time for him to avoid me; someone with a heart as black as the night itself, with no soul whatsoever.

The Canadian exchange student. He must have told his communist Kanuck leaders about me and then had them try and stop me.

I wasn't about to let that happen, so I marched right up to Canada and punched their Prime Minister in the stomach. I ran into their secret movie vault and searched for hours, hunting for that mystery movie. After 13 hours, I found it: "The Fourth Sense." Basically, it was about a detective with a keen sense of smell who solved crimes along with his rookie loose-cannon partner who was really a dinosaur. It was really, really bad, and I think he uncovered some conspiracy where Canada was plotting to take over the United States. I suppose that's why they hid it. I can't be sure because they filled the movie viewing room with some kind of gas, and I woke up naked in a field. My journey was over.

MULLET INVASION: HIDE YOUR CHILDREN

By John Mook

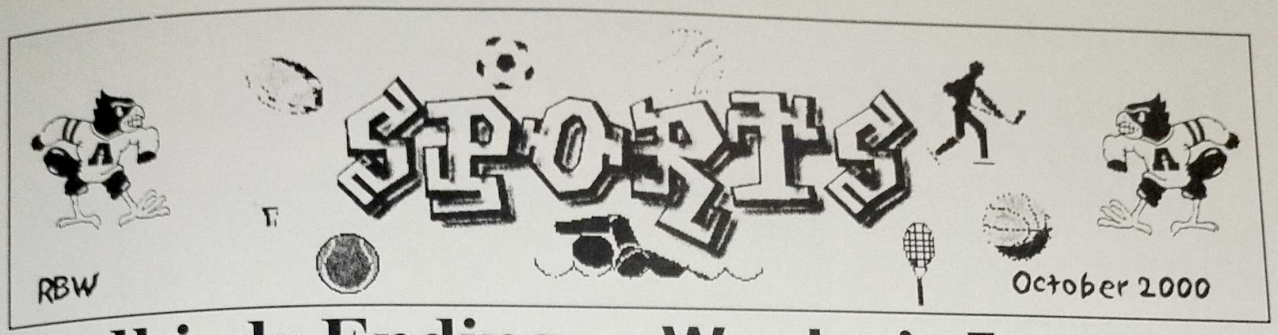
Mullets are back. Once thought to be lost forever, they are back in full effect. Mullets come in many shapes and sizes. A mullet is a haircut with a short top and a long back. Joey Almeter, freshman, said "My favorite kind of mullet is the Snake Bite mullet."

The origin of mullets has been traced back to the movie "Cool Hand Luke." People with similar haircuts were called "mullet heads." Mullets have had many different names, such as the "Hair Cape," the "Neck Warmer," the "Achey Breaky Bad Mistakey," "Business in the Front Party in the Back," the "Yep-Nope," "Seven," "The Hairhood," and the "Canadian Passport." No matter what, a mullet is a mullet.

"Mullets are wonderful, and I hope to get one," said Matt Loftus, senior.

DISCLAIMER:
The RedBird Word in no way condones the use of mullets for private or public use. Thank you.

photo courtesy of Mulletsgalore.com



Redbirds Ending Disappointing Year

By Jeff Saville
Sports Editor

In their desperate search for a winning season, the 1-2 Redbirds found no answers to holding off the opposition in three of their next four contests.

Eyebrows were raised and a glimmer of hope filled the stands at Edwardsville's Sports Complex when the halftime score showed Alton 21, Edwardsville 7. Alton, which dominated the first half, would only need a strong second half effort to insure a victory against its conference rival. However, it was the Tigers who would rally and come up with a 42-21 win over the Redbirds.

The following week saw the Redbirds battling the Maroons of Belleville West. With their good first half showing at Edwardsville, the Redbirds did not recover from the previous game loss, and handed the Maroons a 49-7 victory.

Alton got back on the winning track and welcomed O'Fallon to the Southwestern Conference by out scoring the Panthers 32-29. The victory upset the 2-4 Redbirds with a possible winning season.

The win over O'Fallon, and the cool weather of October, provided the Redbirds with the right ingredients for a victory against the 2-4 Collinsville Kahoks. In a defenseless game, the Kahoks beat the Redbirds 31-28 on a game ending 31 yard field goal.

On a personal note, senior quarterback Zach Wooley said, "I really enjoyed playing football. It taught me a lot of life's lessons."

Wooley's Future is Looking Bright

By Chris Woulfe

Many high school students at this time are asking themselves, "What am I going to do after high school?" For Alton High senior Zach Wooley, he asks himself, "Which school do I choose from?"

University of Illinois, Northwestern and Arkansas State all have offered Wooley scholarships to play football at their school. They have been very impressed with Wooley's quarterbacking skills and recently his hard tackling as a line backer.

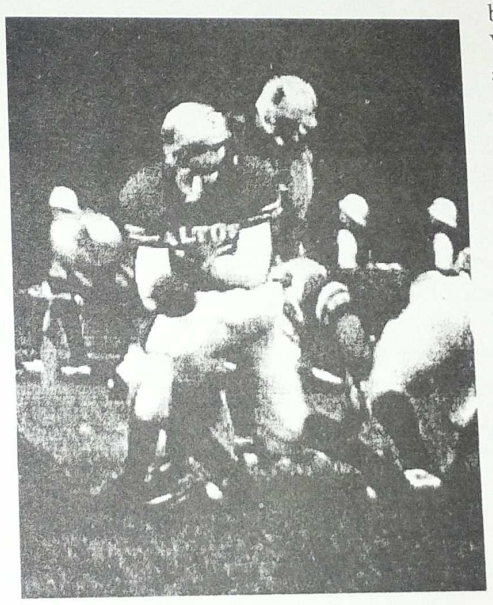


photo by Stephanie Wright

Quarterback Zach Wooley hands off the ball during pregame warm-up.

Wooley is also a catcher for the Alton High baseball team. He has been playing Varsity baseball since his sophomore year and has been scouted by the Atlanta Braves.

When Zach is not playing sports he is earning over a 4.0 grade point average. Because of Wooley's grades and good scores on the ACT and SAT test other school's such as Harvard, Princeton, Dartmouth, Navy, and the Army at Westpoint have also taken a liking to many of Wooley's talents.

When Wooley was asked about his plans, he said, "I am really looking forward to playing football in college."

Senior Night Brings Back Good Memories to the Class of 2001

By Jeff Saville
Sports Editor

Friday, October 6, marked the final home game for the Alton Redbird football team, and recognized the class of 2001. During pregame festivities, all senior cheerleaders, Marching 100, and football participants were recognized by their families, friends, and Alton High supporters.

Senior Caleb Wuellner, a long time Alton High football fan said, "It was really good to have the senior class recognized."

Hard work pays off for Redbirds

By Scott Bechtold

The 2000 varsity golf team has had many peaks and some valleys this year. They did a lot of traveling to tournaments in Paducah, KY, Quincy, IL and Rantoul, IL. At every tournament the team came in second.

There were several individual medalists at these tournaments. At the Quincy Invitational, junior Daniel Lester shot a 70 to take home second place. Sophomore Tyler Dunn won the Rantoul Invitational with scores of 74 and 70. Senior Scott Bechtold shot 76 and 75 to win sixth place.

The Redbirds finished their year with a tie for first place in the Southwestern Conference with the Edwardsville Tigers. The team then received another second at the regional tournament at Arlington. Since the team was in the top four they then moved on to sectionals at the Woodlands Golf Course in Alton, IL. There the Redbirds tied for first place with the Edwardsville Tigers with a score of 310.

Also four players from Alton competed as individuals in the sectional tournament: juniors Alex Butler and Daniel Lester, and sophomores Tyler Dunn and Brian Kuddes.

Dunn was the only player from Alton to advance to the state tournament.

The state tournament was held on October 13 and 14 in Bloomington Il. The Redbirds finished 15th in the state.

photo by Stephanie Wright

Sophomore Tyler Dunn sits and concentrates on his next shot.

Alton's scores were Scott Bechtold (84 and 85), Alex Butler (89 and 85), Zach Deeder (98 and 92), Brian Kuddes (81 and 88), and Daniel Lester (86 and 85).

Tyler Dunn shot a 79 on Friday and an 80 on Saturday which tied him for 21st place.

Alton meets 500

By Stephen Nash

The Alton High Soccer team was not where they wanted to be halfway through the season. With a record of 6-7-1 the team was two games shy of 500.

The Redbirds pushed over the 500 mark in the Alton Invitational which was held October 9-14. They defeated Lincolnwood High School 7-0 and the Centralia Orphans 5-1. The Civic Memorial Eagles placed first in the tournament and the Redbirds came in second.

The Alton Redbirds are 2-4 in the Southwestern Conference. They have defeated the Belleville East Lancers 2-1 and the East St. Louis Flyers 11-0.

The team plays the Edwardsville Tigers for their senior night. Senior Matt Cain said, "The plan for this game is to not be scared."

This year the Redbirds will be graduating 12 seniors and nine of those are starters. Alton's Varsity Soccer Coach Greg Nasello said, "I'm going to miss them, they're a great bunch of guys."

Successful Volleyball Season Nears End

By Derek Allen
Senior Editor

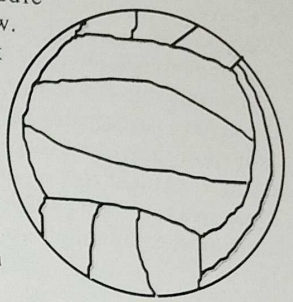
The Alton Redbirds volleyball team is nearing the end of a very successful season. The team improved their record to 15-9 after defeating crosstown rival, Marquette, on October 16. The Redbirds crushed the Explorers 15-10, 15-9.

The Redbirds have been led this year by seniors Anna Noel, Megan Pope, and Stephanie Wright. Co-Captains Megan Pope and Stephanie Wright have shown good leadership since a season ending injury to junior outside hitter Lashonda Chapman.

Varsity Coach Dan Carter said, " The team is playing better towards the end of the season than we did in the beginning. If we continue playing the way we are now we will be okay."

The Redbirds' success began early this season. The Redbirds won the Alton Invitational Tournament held September 1-2. Wright was named the tournament's Most Valuable Player.

In addition to Pope and Wright, the Redbirds have a very talented team. Noel plays back row and junior Amy Lehman plays setter while classmate Tiffany King plays middle blocker in the front row. Sophomores Tricia Bock and Corliss James play outside hitter.



The Redbirds begin the Regional Tournament on October 23. Hopefully they will advance to Sectionals which begin on October 31.

Powder Puff Girls Ready to Rumble

By Dane DePew

This year's Powder Puff football game between the junior and senior girls will be held on November 10 at 7 p.m. at Public School Stadium.

"Everyone please come out and join the fun," said Senior Class President Jason Porter, "There will be lots of laughs watching the boy cheerleaders kick off the team spirit."

The coaches for the senior team are Tony Davis, Jeremy Linley, Kase McDonald, Jason Porter, and Chris Woulfe. "The Seniors look to Ashlee Cox as star quarterback; with back ups Christianne Beck, Heather Arce, and Megan Pope." Porter said. "The juniors better be ready, because we're out to kill!" Arce said.

The junior team will be coached by Jeremy Bond, Sam Plunkett, Delancy Smith, John Vetter, and Luke Warner. As of press time, it was undecided on who the juniors will go with at quarterback, but heads turn to Katie Scroggins. "Have no fear, the junior team is ready for the game and has some secret weapons." Plunkett said.

The girls have been working hard trying to make this an enjoyable and entertaining game.

UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER 3, 4: VARSITY SOCCER STATE TOURNAMENT

NOVEMBER 4: VOLLEYBALL SUPER-SECTIONAL

NOVEMBER 4: CROSS COUNTRY STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

NOVEMBER 11, 12: VOLLEYBALL STATE TOURNAMENT

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Cuddle Up With Courtney

By Courtney Mathus

You know you're a student at AHS when...

(Compiled from Mrs. Capps' International Politics class)

...you get excited if a bathroom actually contains toilet paper and soap.
...you have been sent to your assistant principal for sitting in your own car.
...it costs you $5 to eat lunch in the cafeteria.
...good weather means even better fights.
...your car has more than four different pit stickers on the windshield.
...you walk into stores with your forgotten school ID around your neck.
...you have participated in/witnessed protests by students because lunch is to be eaten in the cafeteria.
...the punishment for forgetting an ID is more harsh than never doing homework.
...you wake up at 10 a.m. on Saturday ready to eat lunch.
...you wear an ID tag held together with tape and/or staples.
...the most common phrase you hear all day is "Where's your ID?"

HOROSCOPES

Aries (March 21- April19): Don't forget to find a date for the Halloween party so you won't be alone in the corner.
Taurus (April 20- May 20): I have a feeling that you will trip on the Main stairs today during 6th hour. Be careful!
Gemini (May 21- June 20): Watch out for falling birds.
Cancer (June 21- July 22): This is your week for money. Start applying for many jobs.
Leo (July 23- Aug.22): Splurge on that new outfit you loved. You worked hard to deserve it!
Virgo (Aug.23- Sept.22): Be wild; get a tattoo.
Libra (Sept.23- Oct.22): Happy Birthday! Do something exciting to celebrate this special day. Be sure to include all your friends.
Scorpio (Oct.23- Nov.21): Don't assume too much. Find out the real answer through communication.
Sagittarius (Nov.22- Dec.21): Make sure you have an extra ID. This is your month of forgetfulness.
Capricorn (Dec.22- Jan.19): Since love is in your hands this month, you will be going on many dates.
Aquarius (Jan.20- Feb.18): Can I just call you lucky? It seems as if everything will be going your way.
Pisces (Feb.19- March 20): Maybe you should take some kissing classes. I heard you kiss like a fish.

Fun things to do in class when you're bored...

1. See how long you can hold your breath.
2. See what's in the classroom trash.
3. Answer the teacher's questions with an Italian accent.
4. Count the strands of hair on your head.
5. See how many erasers you can stick in your nose/ear.
6. Count the number of times your teacher says "the".

Important November Dates

Nov.7- Election Day
Nov. 9, 10- No School - Parent/Teacher Conference
Nov. 16- All City Choral Festival 7:30 p.m.
Nov. 21- AHS Fall Orchestra Concert 7 p.m.
Nov. 23, 24- No School - Thanksgiving Holiday